

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION
SOUTHERN DIVISION

1938 A. A. A. Farm Program - - - - - Range Conservation

IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS RANGE LANDS

The chief aim of the 1938 range conservation program is conservation of soil on range land. This leaflet tells how the program is set up to accomplish this aim in Oklahoma and Texas.

Need for conserving the range in these States arises from the fact that the original grazing capacity has been gradually cut down by droughts, overgrazing, rodents, and noxious plants. Gradual depletion of grass not only has meant a serious loss of forage to stockmen, but also has left the fertile topsoil of large areas of the range exposed to erosion.

The Agricultural Adjustment Administration recognizes that destruction or depletion of the range is a national problem, and the range conservation program was devised to meet that problem. The program is designed to help ranchers put into operation the range-building practices which experiment and actual use have shown to be of value in helping maintain or restore a good stand of grass on depleted areas. These practices seek to do this by eliminating range-destroying plants or by preventing erosion or, in the more arid regions, by the conservation of water.

PAYMENTS TO RANCH OPERATORS

Since ranch operators applying range-building practices to their individual ranches are cooperating in the solution of a national problem, the range conservation program provides that they will receive payments from funds made available by the Federal Government. Such payments and the rates at which they will be made are contingent upon the appropriation by Congress of funds under the authorization of not more than \$500,000,000 per year, that is contained in the existing legislation.

For the purposes of the range conservation program, a ranch or ranching unit includes all range land (except land owned by the United States Government) which is controlled by one operator as a separate unit in the production of livestock, and which is operated with machinery, workstock, and labor substantially separate from that used on any other range land. A ranch is regarded as located in the county in which its principal dwelling is situated. A ranch on which there is no dwelling is regarded as located in the county in which the greater portion of the land is situated.

The maximum amount of money that can be earned for carrying out range-building practices on any ranch is called the range-building allowance. This allowance is calculated by multiplying the estab-

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lished grazing capacity for the ranch by \$1 and adding 2 cents for each acre of range land in the ranch. However, the acreage item will be calculated on not more than 60 acres per animal unit for the grazing capacity established for a ranch, and the grazing capacity item will not be calculated on more than 1 animal unit for each 10 acres.

For illustration, it is assumed that a ranch with 16,000 acres of range land has a grazing capacity of 200, which is more than 60 acres to the animal unit. The acreage payment would be made on 60 times 200, or 12,000 acres. The range-building allowance for this ranching unit would be:

12,000 times 2 cents-----	\$240
200 times \$1-----	200
Total-----	440

The grazing capacity is the number of animal units (one cow, one horse, five goats, or five sheep, or the equivalent) which the range land on the ranch will sustain on a 12-months' basis over a period of years without decreasing the stand of grazing vegetation and without injury to the forage, tree growth, or watershed.

For example, if the grazing capacity of a particular ranch is established at 1,000 animal units, the ranch would be eligible to earn maximum payments totaling \$1,000 plus 2 cents for each acre of range land in the ranch. However, this amount, or any part of it, would have to be earned by carrying out range-building practices for which payment would be made under the schedule printed in this leaflet.

HOW GRAZING CAPACITY IS DETERMINED

The grazing capacity of any ranch participating in the program for the first time will be determined through a field survey made by a county range inspector selected by the county committee, subject to approval of the State committee. The range inspector will take into consideration the composition, palatability, and density of forage growth; variations in weather conditions; distribution and character of watering facilities; topographic and cultural features; presence or absence of rodents and poisonous plants; and the number and classes of livestock previously carried.

On ranches where a grazing capacity was established in 1937, detailed inspection will not be required in 1938 except where it has been requested by the ranch operator or is deemed necessary by the county committee, State committee, or Agricultural Adjustment Administration Regional Director. The grazing capacity of the ranch shall be established on a normal and not a temporary basis. The State committee, prior to June 1, 1938, will make recommendation to the Agricultural Adjustment Administration as to the grazing capacity limits for all counties of the State.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

After group discussions of this program, each ranch operator will be given an opportunity to sign an "Application for determination of grazing capacity" on forms which may be obtained from the county agricultural extension agent. By signing this form a ranch operator automatically becomes a member of the county agricultural conservation association if he is not already a member. The signing of a form

requesting the determination of grazing capacity in no way obligates the operator, but he cannot participate in the program unless he has returned this form to the county committee by the final date set by the Regional Director.

The operator must obtain in advance the county committee's approval of the range-building practices he intends to carry out under the 1938 program. These practices must be performed in accordance with specifications.

The ranch operator is advised to study all the practices described in detail in this leaflet, consult with the county agent, county committee, and range inspector, and finally select for himself the practices best suited to his ranch.

RANGE-BUILDING PRACTICES

As has been stated, conservation of range land soil is the main purpose of the program. Grass offers the best protection to such soil. Land covered by a sufficient stand of grass almost always shows constant improvement. Rarely is it severely affected by erosion.

Consequently, the range program prescribes practices which experiment and actual use have shown will help maintain or restore good stands of grass, by eliminating the competition of range-destroying plants, by preventing erosion, or by conserving water in more arid regions.

Natural reseeding by deferred grazing.—One of the most important practices is that of natural reseeding. This is accomplished by keeping all livestock off the pasture from the start of the growth of grass in the spring until the seed has matured.

A different portion of the ranch should be selected each year for natural reseeding by deferred grazing. Thus the entire ranch eventually may be reseeded. The operator cannot qualify for payment on land that normally would not be grazed during this period, nor will he be eligible for payment if he permits the rest of his ranch to be injuriously overgrazed.

To qualify for payment under this practice it is necessary for the operator to maintain a suitable fence to keep livestock out of the area being reseeded (on sheep ranches herding may take the place of fencing). The operator also is required to designate in writing to the county committee prior to beginning the practice the area to be deferred from grazing. He will be required to comply with any additional specifications the county committee may prescribe which have the approval of the State committee.

Development of stock water on range land.—The better distribution of watering places will lessen erosion brought about through trampling and destroying of grass by stock going long distances to water. Stock going long distances to water create trails that develop into washes and gullies and increase the damage from runoff. Payment will not be made for developing wells at the ranch headquarters.

Tanks and reservoirs.—The construction of earthen tanks and reservoirs is the most desirable method of impounding stock water under this program. Dam sites should be chosen carefully, and ranchmen are urged to confer with the county agent, range inspector, or county committee before construction is begun.

Concrete or rubble masonry dams.—Provision for the construction of concrete or rubble masonry dams has been made for situations where earthen dams are not practicable because of rocky soil.

Wells.—Payments for wells are conditioned on the operator's erecting at his own expense a windmill or power pump and providing suitable facilities, such as drinking troughs or tanks, for the storage of stock water. The location of the well and the facilities provided must be approved by the county committee before payment will be made for this practice.

Development of natural watering places.—Development of natural watering places consists of improvement and development of springs and seeps by excavation. To qualify for payment, the operator must, at his own expense, wall

up the spring or seep with concrete or rubble masonry walls, fence and protect it from trampling, and pipe the water into a tank through a trough or in a pipe not less than 1 inch in size.

Erosion and run-off control.—Contour listing, furrowing, chiseling, contour ridging, and the building of spreader dams and terraces are erosion-control practices specified in the program because they have proved to hold water on the land where it falls, and to help catch grass seed which otherwise would be lost.

Elimination of destructive plants.—Soil may be conserved through encouraging an increased growth of grass by eliminating the range-destroying plants which shade out grass or kill it by root competition. This practice is paid for in proportion to varying degrees of infestation determined by the range inspector.

PRACTICES AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

Following is a complete list of practices for which payments will be made up to the limit of the range-building allowance, with rates and conditions of payments. Additional specifications may be issued by the State committee as indicated, with the approval of the Director of the Southern Division. Payment will be made only for practices carried out between January 1, 1938, and December 31, 1938, inclusive (except that trees must be planted prior to November 1), and approved in writing in advance by the county committee.

Practices and conditions of payment	Payment rate
<p align="center">A. RESEEDING OF RANGE LAND</p>	
<p>1. Natural reseeding by deferred grazing----- For withholding 25 percent of the range land in the ranching unit from grazing for the period from the start of forage growth to seed maturity, which period for the purpose of this practice shall be considered to be 5 months (150 days) beginning on the date between Feb. 1 and June 1, 1938, recommended by the county committee and approved by the State committee: <i>Provided that:</i> (1) If grazing is deferred on less than 25 percent of the range land in the ranching unit a proportionate payment will be made; (2) the area to be kept free of grazing is fenced and the fence is maintained sufficiently to prevent the entry of livestock (or on ranching units used exclusively for sheep the entry of livestock on the nongrazed area may be prevented by herding); (3) prairie dogs are eradicated from such area; (4) the remaining range land in such ranching unit is not pastured to such an extent as will decrease the stand of grass or injure the forage, tree growth, or watershed; (5) such practice shall not be applicable to range land in the ranching unit which normally is not used for grazing during the period from the start of forage growth to seed maturity; (6) the ranch operator has submitted to the county committee in writing the designation of the nongrazing range area of the ranching unit previous to the carrying out of such practice; and (7) if recommended by the county committee and approved by the State committee, the operator mows such deferred acreage if badly infested with undesirable weeds or shrubs, and complies with such other conditions or specifications as are recommended by the county committee and approved by the State committee as being needed in the interest of range conservation, such county committee recommendations to be made prior to the date set for the beginning of the deferred grazing period.</p>	<p>60 percent of the range-building allowance.</p>

Practices and conditions of payment	Payment rate
A. RESEEDING OF RANGE LAND—Continued	
<p>2. Artificial reseeding----- For reseeding depleted range land with good seed or adapted varieties of range grasses, legumes, or forage shrubs, provided such range land is properly prepared previous to such seeding by using such methods, including mowing, disking, contour listing, or other methods, as are approved by the county committee as being good practice for such land. Satisfactory evidence must be submitted to the county committee regarding performance under this practice.</p>	<p>20 cents per pound of seed sown, but not in excess of \$2 per acre.</p>
B. EROSION AND RUN-OFF CONTROL	
<p>3. (a) For contour listing, furrowing, or subsoiling (chiseling). Furrow channels, if listed or plowed, shall be not less than 8 inches in width and 4 inches in depth; if subsoiled (chiseled), shall not be less than 3 inches in width and 6 inches in depth. If furrows are 7 feet or less apart, the actual acreage of land furrowed will be computed. If furrows are over 7 feet apart, the acreage of the practice will be computed on the basis of the acreage occupied by such furrows, each furrow being considered to occupy a strip 7 feet in width.</p>	<p>50 cents per acre.</p>
<p>(b) For ridging range land on the contour----- Such ridges or narrow terraces must be at least 3 feet in width from low point in the upper channel to the top of the ridge and at least 12 inches in height above such low point in the upper channel and spaced in accordance with the degree of slope as specified by the State committee.</p>	<p>10 cents per 100 linear feet.</p>
<p>4. Spreader dams and terraces:</p>	
<p>(a) For constructing spreader dams-----</p>	<p>15 cents per cubic yard for material moved in building the dams.</p>
<p>(b) For constructing spreader terraces----- Spreader dams and spreader terraces may be constructed alone or in combination with each other for the diversion of surface water to prevent soil washing of range land. Such dams and terraces must be accurately laid off and checked with the standard farm level or surveyor's instrument, and must be constructed in accordance with specifications issued by the State committee.</p>	<p>40 cents per 100 linear feet of terraces constructed.</p>
C. DEVELOPMENT OF STOCK WATER ON RANGE LAND	
<p>5. Earthen tanks or reservoirs----- For constructing reservoirs or earthen tanks with spillways adequate to prevent dams from washing out, for the purpose of providing water for range livestock, provided that such dams shall be constructed in accordance with specifications issued by the State committee. Prior to construction the site for such dam must be inspected and a preliminary survey made by a representative designated by the county committee.</p>	<p>15 cents per cubic yard of fill or excavation.</p>
<p>6. Concrete or rubble masonry dams----- For constructing concrete or rubble masonry dams in rough or broken areas (where earthen dams or reservoirs are impracticable and where there is no possibility of using the water stored by such masonry dam</p>	<p>\$6 per cubic yard of concrete or rubble masonry.</p>

Practices and conditions of payment	Payment rate
C. DEVELOPMENT OF STOCK WATER ON RANGE LAND—Contd.	
for irrigation), for the purpose of providing water for range livestock, provided that such dams shall be constructed in accordance with specifications issued by the State committee.	
Prior to construction, the site for such dam must be inspected and a preliminary survey made by a representative designated by the county committee.	
7. Wells:	
For drilling or digging wells, with sufficient casing to prevent caving, for the purpose of providing water for range livestock, provided a windmill or power pump is installed and the water is conveyed to a tank or storage reservoir.	
(a) Wells with casing not less than 4 inches in diameter.	\$2 per linear foot.
(b) Wells with casing less than 4 inches but not less than 2 inches in diameter.	\$1 per linear foot.
An artesian well will qualify for payment under (a) or (b) provided adequate stock water is made available during the grazing season and the water is conveyed to a tank or trough, provided such well is sufficiently cased to prevent caving.	
Payment will not be made for a well developed at ranch headquarters. A dry hole will not qualify for payment.	
8. Development of natural watering places:	
For developing springs or seeps by excavating, walling up such springs or seeps with concrete or masonry, protecting the source from trampling by adequate fencing, and conveying the water in a trough or in a pipe not less than 1 inch in diameter to a tank, for the purpose of providing water for range livestock:	
(a) Where excavation is in soil or gravel.....	40 cents per cubic foot.
(b) Where excavation is in rock.....	70 cents per cubic foot.
D. PLANTING AND MAINTAINING A STAND OF TREES	
9. Tree planting.....	\$10 per acre.
For planting trees on range land, provided (a) the trees are planted in 1938 prior to Nov. 1; (b) the number, kind, variety, and age of trees planted and methods of planting and growing are in accordance with approved specifications issued by the State committee, and (c) the acreage planted to trees is fenced and the fence is maintained sufficiently to prevent entry of livestock.	
E. CONSERVATION OF RANGE LANDS THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF DESTRUCTIVE PLANTS	
10. For eliminating prickly pear and cactus; as determined by the percentage of ground infested:	
(a) Light infestation, 2 percent to 6 percent, inclusive..	50 cents per acre.
(b) Medium infestation, 7 percent to 12 percent, inclusive.	75 cents per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation, above 12 percent.....	\$1 per acre.
Where infestation is less than 2 percent, coverage will be calculated by counting 2 or more acres as 1, according to the relative facts found by the range inspector and approved by the county committee.	

Practices and conditions of payment	Payment rate
E. CONSERVATION OF RANGE LANDS THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF DESTRUCTIVE PLANTS—Continued	
11. For eliminating mesquite; as determined by the percentage of ground infested:	
(a) Light infestation, 5 percent to 20 percent, inclusive.	50 cents per acre.
(b) Medium infestation, 21 percent to 40 percent, inclusive.	\$1 per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation, above 40 percent-----	\$2 per acre.
Where infestation is less than 5 percent, coverage will be calculated by counting 2 or more acres as 1, according to the relative facts found by the range inspector and approved by the county committee.	
12. For eliminating cedar; as determined by the percentage of ground infested:	
(a) Light infestation, 5 percent to 15 percent, inclusive.	75 cents per acre.
(b) Medium infestation, 15 percent to 30 percent, inclusive.	\$1 per acre.
(c) Heavy infestation, above 30 percent-----	\$1.50 per acre.
Where infestation is less than 5 percent, coverage will be calculated by counting 2 or more acres as 1, according to the relative facts found by the range inspector and approved by the county committee.	
13. For eliminating lechuguilla, as determined by the percentage of ground infested:	
(a) Heavy infestation, above 2 percent cover-----	50 cents per acre.
Where infestation is less than 2 percent, coverage will be calculated by counting 2 or more acres as 1, according to the relative facts found by the range inspector and approved by the county committee.	
NOTE.—The degree of infestation of destructive plants as outlined in practices Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13 will be determined by judging the density of the growths and grading them in accordance with the percentage of the ground covered by the total spread of trees or plants, as estimated by the range inspector. In order to make an accurate estimate as to the percentage of coverage of such plants, the range inspector should step off a representative tenth or twentieth of an acre of infested area and measure the ground covered by all the trees and plants under consideration that are on the area. From this he can determine the percentage of coverage on such plot or plots, then use this percentage as a basis for arriving at the percentage of the entire infested area.	
F. FIRE GUARDS	
14. For the establishment and maintenance of fire guards not less than 10 feet in width by destroying vegetative cover by plowing furrows with proper arrangements to be made to prevent erosion and gullyng or by other mechanical means exposing the soil. (Payment will not be made if the fire guard is used in connection with controlled burning within the ranching unit.)	5 cents per 100 linear feet.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PAYMENT

Application for range-building payments may be made only by a ranch operator, who is the person operating a ranching unit as owner, cash tenant, or share tenant, or a person who acts in a similar capacity in the operation of a ranch. In case there are two or more ranch operators the application must be signed by all of them. However, if one or more refuse to sign, the county committee will deter-

mine the percentage shares of those operators who have signed the application. An owner or lessee who will operate the ranch for a portion of the year must apply for inspection before the closing date for accepting applications, in order to qualify under the program by performance after he actually assumes operation.

No deductions will be made from payments for carrying out range-building practices because of failure to meet soil-depleting acreage requirements and other conditions of the agricultural conservation program. The right to payment, however, will be withheld from any ranch operator who fails to file within the prescribed time any form or furnish any information required concerning any ranch in which he is interested.

Full payments will not be made for practices for which one-half or more of the labor, seed, trees, or materials are furnished by any State or Federal agency other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. If less than one-half of the labor, seed, trees, or other materials used in carrying out any practice is furnished by a State or Federal agency, other than the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, payment will be made at one-half of the full rate.

Wherever it is found practicable, trees, seeds, and other material may, upon request of the ranch operators, be furnished by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration to apply as all or part of the ranch payment.

No payments will be made to any ranch operator (1) who has adopted any practice in 1938 tending to defeat the purposes of the 1938 A. A. A. farm program or to offset practices for which payment is sought; (2) who adopts any practice on forest or woodland controlled by him which is contrary to sound conservation practices; (3) where adequate inspection of his ranch shows the stand of grass has been decreased or the forage, tree growth, or watershed has been injured by overgrazing in 1938, consideration being given to rainfall, rate of stocking, and other local conditions; (4) or to any person changing for 1938 any leasing arrangements so as to divert to himself payments which would have gone to the lessee under the 1937 conditions of the lease, or employing any other scheme or device which would have the effect of depriving any other person of any payment or share of payment to which such other person otherwise would be entitled.

Under the marketing-quota provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 no payment will be made for participation in the 1938 range conservation program to any person who knowingly plants cotton in 1938 on any farm that he owns or in which he is interested in excess of his cotton acreage allotment.

SMALL PAYMENTS TO BE INCREASED

The new farm law provides for a graduated scale of increases of small payments to participating farmers. Payments of 71 cents or less will be increased to \$1; payments from 72 cents up to \$20 will be increased 40 percent; payments more than \$20, but not more than \$40, will be increased \$8, plus 20 percent of the amount of the payment over \$20; payments of more than \$40, but not more than \$60, will be increased \$12, plus 10 percent of the amount over \$40; payments more than \$60, but not more than \$186, will be increased by \$14; and payments over \$186, but less than \$200, will be increased to \$200.

Deductions for administrative expenses of the county agricultural conservation association in each county will be made from the payments to participating ranchers on a pro rata basis.

ASSIGNMENTS

Any person who may be entitled to any payment in connection with the 1938 range conservation program may assign his interest in such payment as security for cash loaned or advances made for the purpose of financing the making of a crop in 1938 or the carrying out of range-building practices in 1938, such assignment to be made in writing on a prescribed form and filed in the county agricultural extension agent's office.

APPEALS

Any ranch operator who considers himself aggrieved by any recommendation or determination of the county committee may, within 15 days after notice thereof is given, request the county committee in writing to reconsider the recommendation or determination.

Appeals may also be taken from the decisions of the county committee to the State committee and to the regional director of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration.